

The Depository Trust Company

IMPORTANT

B#: 1668-07

DATE: June 12, 2007

TO: Issuers, Paying Agents, Transfer Agents, Trustees and Other Payment Intermediaries

FROM: DTCC Asset Services

SUBJECT: Principal and Income Payments

DTC's Operational Arrangements ("OA") describes procedures that must be followed by issuers and their agents for securities to become and remain eligible for depository services. The OA contains a statement that must be signed by an organization acting in the capacity of paying agent, trustee or transfer agent (the "Agent") before any of the issues serviced by that organization are made eligible for depository services. In that statement, the Agent agrees to comply with applicable provisions of the OA.

The volume of principal and income payments continues to grow. In 2006, DTC received and allocated to its Participants a record \$3.4 trillion and payments during the first quarter of 2007 have outpaced last year's growth. The purpose of this Important Notice is to remind issuers and Agents of certain provisions of the OA regarding the payment of principal and income proceeds in same-day funds on payable date. Compliance with the procedures that follow will ensure that bond and shareholders receive their entitlements in same-day funds on payable date.

Principal and Income Payment Procedures

Principal and income payments must be delivered to Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC, or its registered assigns, in same-day funds no later than 3:00 p.m. ET on payable date. Issuers or Agents are required to provide CUSIP-specific detail of payments no later than 2:50 p.m. ET on payable date. To facilitate this payment requirement, issuers must remit all principal and income payments due Agents by 1:00 p.m. ET on payable date, or by such earlier time as may be required by the Agent to guaranty that DTC shall receive payment in same-day funds no later than 3:00 p.m. ET on payable date.

Failure to receive timely payments jeopardizes the same-day distribution of proceeds to DTC Participants and, by extension, to beneficial holders. DTC monitors payment performance and may refuse to make eligible certain issues if issuers and/or Agents have a record of failure to comply with these requirements. .

Absent any other arrangements between issuers or Agents and DTC, income payments must be wired to DTC's Dividend Deposit Account and principal payments associated with redemption and maturity activity must be wired to DTC's Redemption Deposit Account. For more detailed information regarding wire instructions and payment arrangements with DTC, please contact:

Cash Support
The Depository Trust Company
55 Water Street 25th Floor
New York, NY 10041-0099
Phone: (212) 855-2179
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For full details of DTC's Operational Arrangements please see DTC's website at www.dtc.org (click on Forms for Making Securities DTC Eligible under the Quick Links banner on the first page).

Please take this opportunity to remind your respective issuers and constituents of the need to comply with the above procedures.

Please do not hesitate to contact Marcelo Mejia, Director of P&I Cash Processing at (212) 855-5071 with any questions about this notice.